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Vest Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH
Author of "At Good Old Siwash"

SOCIETY.

Society is a mysterious and de-
ceptive, in which everyone
is a mystery, and of which very few
know the inside. It consists of clothes, man-
ners, and a certain amount of money.
The mixing of these three
unlimited amount of money
used to produce happiness in
small chunks.
In fact, it does not
do this. But it produces envy
onlookers, which, as every-
one knows, is just as good as happi-
ness.
Society is a continual battle be-
tween those who are out and are
trying to get in and those who are in
trying to keep the rest out. More money is spent
in battles than is spent in real
life. The effect on the men in
society is equally distressing.
Getting into society is a difficult
and dangerous performance. Some-
times you get in up to their necks and
entirely over their heads.
The nearly always has to throw
his or her heart to lighten the
and sometimes the stomach
will go overboard, too.
The object of society is to be merry
in the society columns of
waspapers. Society is a co-op-
erative in which every member
is expected to contribute to the
glory of the rest. Some com-
mon money and food, while others
are good looks, and still others
are rare old ancestors. Fine new
and rare old ancestors are
at war in society, and at pres-
ent seem to have the an-
cestry on the run, owing to the
scarcity of the latter.
The result is the general impres-



Learning to float on the social wave
is one of the most difficult arts.

try and anyone can get into society
by paying the initiation fee and the
hourly dues. One of the easiest ways
to get into American society is to ar-
rive from the other side and make a
noise like a duke.
Some people profess great scorn
and indignation at society, while
others pay no attention to it, but go
right on raising children in the most
shameless manner. This makes it
easy for us to tell who want to get
into society and who do not. 251

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FRIENDS

A FRIEND is a man who is will-
ing to share his time, his
money and his conversation
with you.
There are many kinds of friends.
Some friends exist for revenge only
and some are protective to a high de-
gree. A true friend is a better de-
fender than a battleship and as a
convenience has a national bank
branch all around the compass.
Friends are useful in a multitude
of ways. They are a great assist-
ance in smoking cigars, in waiting
for ducks and in digesting dinners.
A great many men find it impossible
to support a large heavy bar in an
expensive saloon without the aid of
several friends. Friends can be
sworn at with comparative safety,
and the man who loves to tell dis-
agreeable truths in an offensive
frank manner would not live long if
he were compelled to practice upon
strangers instead of friends.
Friends are blood relatives of pro-
crastination. Both are great thieves
of time. As a rule, friends live
most dearly to steal the bright and
cheerful evening hours which should
be spent in reading good books. It
is a common thing for two or three
friends to hold up a perfectly re-
spectable business man and take
four or five hours away from him,
including the hour in which the last
street car leaves the downtown dis-
trict.
Friends are responsible for most
of the politicians of the country.
Almost every man who has run for
office has done so at the instance
of his friends. This can be proven
by the statements of thousands of
candidates. However, most of these
friends prove their friendship at
elections by steadfastly voting for
the other fellow.
David and Jonathan were the two



first recorded friends of great devo-
tion. David loved Jonathan like a
brother, but was not half so mean
to him. Damon and Pythias were
celebrated friends who flourished be-
fore the Christian era was invented.
Pythias took Damon's place in the
death cell while Damon visited his
relatives, and was proved when he
could not die for him. Nowadays
even greater heights of devotion are
reached between friends who go un-
derstandingly to death in each other's
automobiles in great numbers.
Some people have friends as recrea-
tion, some as tools, some as bank
security, some as confidants and some
as a means of making a name.
A certain amount of finding a friend
is to do and make a noise like
a bill, breaking. A method not nearly
so sure is to go broke yourself.
Friends are pleasant if used in
moderation, but disastrous if used
to excess. Very few men can afford
to have more than a dozen friends,
unless they have nothing else to do.
It is as much trouble to keep three
friends as it is to keep one hired
girl.

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ANCESTORS

ANCESTORS are found alone
with old families and native
people in all of our best
regulated families. Ancestors consist
of forefathers and foremothers,
to say nothing of foreuncles and
aunts, who have done something
grand or noble. The name bestowed
by a king or a noble relative who
was governor of a colony. This en-
ables them to be proud and at with
pride by their descendants forever
more.
Having an ancestor is one of the
easiest and most attractive of jobs.
It is every child of Adam's right
to have a descendant. Thus, many
ancestors have been enabled to make
good after they are dead. More than
one ancestor will take credit out of
this life a perfect person, and only a
few jumps ahead of the earth, he
had the good fortune, a century later,
to become the ancestor of some im-
portant family with plenty of money,
and has looked on himself in conse-
quence that his tombstone has had
to be greatly enlarged and improved.
Ancestors are one of the most
valuable and satisfactory of posses-
sions. They are not taxable and
cannot be stolen. Their names are
permanently recorded, and they do not
necessarily wear out or get old. In
fact, they live on in the same way as they
grow old. In the same way, old and
new are a single mass of memory
of things and ancestors. Adam
is the oldest ancestor. He is 6000
years old and had a fine record. But
he is a very poor ancestor, like edu-
cation and liberty, so he is not val-
ued very much.
Most all of us have our own and ap-
parently good ancestors. But the poorest
man may have them too. Many a
man who hasn't two cents to his
name, and cannot hold a job two
minutes, has ancestors which are the
envy of his automobilious neighbors.
We cannot buy ancestors, if we do
not have them, but we can buy them
for our children by marrying dis-
creetly. A full set of fine imported
ancestors can now be purchased for
a million dollars. The great trouble
with these imported goods is the fact
that they are often badly infected
with descendants. Some of the very
finest ancestors have been almost
ruined by these parasites and there
is no legal cure.
In England, everybody has ances-
tors. Some of them are over 1,000
years old, and are still in a state of
excellent preservation. The best
American brand came over in the
Mayflower about 300 years ago.
Some of the better grades of Ameri-
can ancestors are now controlled by
a trust, the Daughters of the Ameri-
can Revolution.
We should all be proud of our an-
cestors, but not out loud.



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